

'US spies' in Paris to be named

From WALTER SCHWARZ, Paris, January 12

A list of 50 alleged "CIA" agents operating in Paris — all members of the American Embassy staff — is to be published in *Liberation*, the extreme left-wing daily newspaper, tomorrow and Wednesday.

A member of the paper's staff said the list was compiled by a group of unnamed French, American, and British journalists. The aim was "to hamper the activities of these men who abuse diplomatic cover and give American diplomacy a bad name," said the paper's spokesman. "We are not pinpointing them for assassination."

American Embassy staff here had not seen the list tonight. They made no comment, but the State Department in Washington has given warning of the dangers of such publications after last month's murder in Athens of the head of the CIA station, Mr Richard Welch.

The only name on the new list available this evening was that of Mr Eugen Burgstaller, listed in the Embassy as an attache, special assistant to the Ambassador; he is alleged by *Liberation* to be the head of the CIA station here.

Mr Burgstaller and his assistant are the only two accredited diplomats on *Liberation's* list. The others are all non-accredited employees of the Embassy. It employs 450 people, of whom only 90 are accredited.

The *Liberation* staff man said the list was compiled by methods used by the American magazine *Counterspy* — through car number plates and social security and other personal numbers, which were said to be different from those of real diplomats.

In a written Parliamentary question yesterday, M Georges Fillioud, a Socialist member, expressed concern about reports in the Washington Post of "co-operation" between the

CIA and the French secret service, the SDECE. M Fillioud has asked the Prime Minister, M Chirac, for a statement in Parliament, if necessary in private, to protect national security.

Jonathan Steele adds from Washington: A White House spokesman declined to comment on *Liberation's* decision to publish names. He said the position of the US Administration on the publication of US agents' names was well known. Mr David Phillips, the founder of the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers, said that it was following a well-established pattern. "Publication of CIA names is approaching the proportions of an epidemic," he added.

He said he was sure the French list would contain some CIA names but also some errors. He had seen many of the names on it. Some of the names had been read out to him by a reporter and many were completely unfamiliar to him.

Mr Phillips said a Spanish paper had published lists of names of agents in Madrid and various groups were proposing to publish them in Sweden, Angola, Zaire, Italy, and Gambia. Mr Phillips, who retired from a senior position in the CIA in May, has accused groups that publish names of putting agents in danger of assassination.